



PATENT APPLICATION

#11
9-21-02
Robert
Eberlin

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masaki KATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 09/828,914

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Filed: April 10, 2001

Docket No.: 109187

For: EXPOSURE APPARATUS, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THEREOF AND
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING MICRODEVICE

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated August 29, 2002, Applicants hereby
elect Group I, claims 1-45. The election is made with traverse.

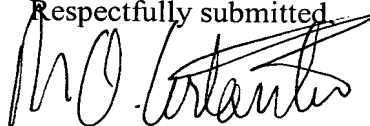
As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's
grouping and characterization of the claims. Applicants submit that claims 1-27 are directed
to an exposure apparatus, claims 28-45 are directed to a method of manufacturing a
microdevice, and claims 46-66 are directed to a method of manufacturing an exposure
apparatus.

Second, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is
sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims
would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is
respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be
made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and
examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must

examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 7, 2001 and October 19, 2001. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, copies of these Information Disclosure Statements are not present in the Patent Office file.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: September 18, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--